

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00

OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 INR-07 L-03

NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-15 OES-05 SS-15

SP-02 INT-05 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 AGR-10 HUD-02

TRSE-00 OMB-01 OIC-02 DOTE-00 HEW-06 /162 W

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P 020724Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7507

INFO USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 NAIROBI 0985

ROME FOR FODAG

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, UNEP

SUBJECT: UNEP: PRE GC/IV CONSULTATIONS, JANUARY 28-30

SUMMARY: INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS CONCLUDED AFTER TWO DAYS OF DISCUSSION WHICH FOCUSED ON REVIEW OF INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION. DISCUSSION THIS ITEM TURNED UP NO SURPRISES, BUT IT NOW CLEAR GC/IV WILL BE SEIZED WITH POST HABITAT INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS IN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS. STATUS OF ENVIRONMENTAL FUND DISCUSSED BRIEFLY. IN CONCLUDING SESSION, SECRETARIAT OUTLINED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S INTENTION TO SEEK GC APPROVAL FOR NEW PRIORITY ACTIVITIES IN FOOD AND IN OZONE LAYER. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW. END SUMMARY.

1. REVIEW OF UNEP INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS: TWENTY

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OF 36 MEMBERS OF GC PRESENT SPOKE TO THIS ISSUE, IN

ADDITION TO AUSTRIA ATTENDING AS OBSERVER. DISCUSSION GENERALLY SUPPORTED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OWN CONCLUSION, PRESENTED IN DRAFT DOCUMENT UNEP/75, THAT NO CHANGES IN BASIC STRUCTURE PROVIDED FOR IN GA RES 2997 WAS WARRANTED AT THIS TIME. DISCUSSION PRESENT MACHINERY TENDED TO FOCUS ON NEED FOR IMPROVED COMMUNICATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS AND SECRETARIAT, BUT THIS NEED CAN BE MET WITHIN PRESENT INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS. SUGGESTIONS RANGED FROM PROPOSALS FOR SMALL (TEN TO FIFTEEN MEMBER PROGRAM) BODY DRAWN FROM GC MEMBERSHIP WHICH COULD PROVIDE PROGRAM GUIDANCE WITHIN APPROVED GC GUIDELINES BETWEEN MEETINGS OF GC ITSELF TO SIMPLIFICATION GC AGENDA AND CONCENTRATION ON MAJOR AREAS OF CONCERN AT ALTERNATE SESSIONS. REGARDING SECRETARIAT, CLEAR CONSENSUS REGISTERED THAT UNEP STAFF MUST REMAIN SMALL, ALTHOUGH OF HIGH QUALITY. OTHERWISE, BASIC MISSION OF UNEP WILL BE NEGLECTED AND PROGRAM WILL DRIFT INTO OPERATIONS, IMPINGING ON RESPONSIBILITIES OF OTHER AGENCIES OR PROGRAMS IN UN SYSTEM. LITTLE DISCUSSION ON FUND. ALTHOUGH CHAIR (ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR STEDMAN) STATED HE THOUGHT GC IV SHOULD GIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO RATIONALE FOR ALLOCATION OF UNEP COSTS BETWEEN UN REGULAR BUDGET AND UNEP FUND. MOST SPEAKERS EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION BOARD, ALTHOUGH SEVERAL, FOLLOWING US LEAD, FELT NEED EXISTED FOR REVIEW OF ECB'S PROCEDURES WITH VIEW TO IMPROVING ITS PERFORMANCE.

2. UN RESTRUCTURING: ON RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN UNEP INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW TO WORK OF AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING, ALL SPEAKERS RECOGNIZED POTENTIAL IMPACT ON UNEP BUT MOST NOT IN POSITION TO EXPRESS DEFINITIVE VIEWS, WHILE SEVERAL SPEAKERS, PARTICULARLY UK, US, AND USSR, CAUTIONED AGAINST UNEP ATTEMPTING TO MAKE DEFINITIVE

RECOMMENDATIONS TO AD HOC COMMITTEE, THERE WAS GENERAL FEELING EXPRESSED THAT EXISTING INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION SHOULD BE PRESERVED.

3. HABITAT AND UNEP: CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE
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ON UNEP'S RELATIONSHIP TO ANY PROPOSED INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS EMERGING FROM HABITAT. MUHOHO, KENYAN CHAIRMAN OF JUST-CONCLUDED HABITAT PROGRAM, ON CHAIR'S INVITATION, REPORTED THAT PREPCOM HAD REJECTED ANY PROPOSAL FOR NEW HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AGENCY AND HAD ASKED PENALOSA TO ELABORATE REMAINING ALTERNATIVES, I.E., ORGANIZING COORDINATED HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAM AROUND CBHP WITHIN ESA OR AROUND UNHHSF UNDER UNEP UMBRELLA,

SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION, WHILE BY NO MEANS DEFINITIVE, CONFIRMED THIS WILL BE MAJOR ISSUE AT GC IV. ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES REPRESENTED EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE UNEASINESS THAT ASSIGNMENT TO UNEP WILL DIVERT PROGRAM FROM ITS CENTRAL MISSION AND RESULT IN DEGREE OF IMBALANCE WHICH WILL ENDANGER REST OF PROGRAM. ALL RECOGNIZED THAT ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS WILL REMAIN MAJOR ELEMENT IN UNEP MISSION AND THAT UNEP SHOULD THEREFORE RELATE TO POST-HABITAT INSTITUTIONS IN SAME WAY IT RELATES TO OTHER PARTS OF UN SYSTEM ALL LDCS PRESENT, IN ONE DEGREE OR OTHER, FELT ONLY CLOSEST POSSIBLE TIE TO UNEP WOULD ENSURE SUCCESS OF PROGRAM, ALTHOUGH NO SPEAKER WAS PREPARED ATTEMPT PRECISE FORMULATION OF POSSIBLE ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK. IN INTRODUCING THIS ISSUE IN HIS OPENING REMARKS, ED TOLBA STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF INTERRELATION OF MAN-MADE WITH NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND HENCE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF UNEP'S LINK TO POST-HABITAT ARRANGEMENTS. ALTHOUGH DRIFT HIS REMARKS APPEARED TO FAVOR ALTERNATIVE B (UNEP) SOLUTION, US PARTICIPANTS UNDERSTAND HE WORKING TOWARD COMPROMISE SOLUTION SOMEWHERE BETWEEN ALTERNATIVE A (CHBP) AND B (UNEP) SOLUTION, WHICH WOULD PLACE OPERATING AUTHORITY WHOLLY OUTSIDE UNEP STRUCTURE (POSSIBLY IN CHBP) WITH UNEP GC PROVIDING POLICY GUIDANCE.

4. REVIEW OF CURRENT STATUS OF ENVIRONMENT FUND: IN INTRODUCING THIS SUBJECT, SECRETARIAT RECALLED THAT

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7508
INFO USMISSION USUN PRIORITY
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ROME FOR FODAG

INITIAL PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION HAD BEEN HAMPERED
PENDING ORGANIZATION OF STAFF, DEVELOPMENT AND REFINEMENT OF PROCEDURES, INCLUDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES, AND OVERCOMING PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN ESTABLISHING HEADQUARTERS IN REMOTE LOCATION . THESE PROBLEMS NOW RESOLVED, HOWEVER, AND UNEP PROGRAM ACTIVITIES HAVE ALREADY ACCELERATED TO POINT WHERE EXPENDITURE LEVEL PROJECTED FOR 1976 WILL MORE THAN DOUBLE THAT OF 1975. IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN PROJECTED EXPENDITURE FOR 3-YEAR PERIOD 1975-1977 AT LEVEL APPROVED BY GC/III, WHICH BASED ON PROJECTED \$100 MILLION FUND, ED WILL SEEK AT GC IV REVISED ALLOCATIONS OF \$34 MILLION IN 1976 AND \$35.7 MILLION IN 1977. THESE FIGURES COMPARE WITH \$27.8 MILLION FOR 1976 AND \$32.5 MILLION FOR 1977 APPROVED BY GC III. SECRETARIAT DISTRIBUTED INFORMAL, NON-OFFICIAL PAPER ON THIS SUBJECT TO PROVIDE PARTICIPANTS ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND. THIS PAPER REVEALS THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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RESOURCES OF UNEP PRESENTLY INCLUDE TOTAL OF \$650,000 IN NON-CONVERTIBLE CURRENCIES WHICH, IF PLEDGES REALIZED, WILL SWELL TO \$6.8 BY END OF 1976. US SPOKESMAN STATED THAT CONDITION FOR FUND AND US RESPONSIBILITY TO ITS GENERAL HEALTH WOULD BE GIVEN CLOSE CONSIDERATION IN PREPARATION FOR GC IV AND THAT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PRESENTED IN INFORMAL DOCUMENT WOULD BE USEFUL IN THIS RESPECT. IN MEANTIME, HOWEVER, HE EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT MAGNITUDE OF PROJECTED 1976 EXPENDITURE AND WONDERED HOW SERIOUSLY THESE FIGURES SHOULD BE TAKEN. HE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT PROJECTED PROGRAM FOR 1976 AND 1977, PERIOD UNDER PERFORMANCE OF FIRST YEARS HAD APPEARANCE OF ARTIFICIAL EXERCISE AND WONDERED IF INSTEAD SECRETARIAT SHOULD NOT BE PROPOSING STRETCHOUT OF ORIGINALLY CONCEIVED PROGRAM. FINALLY, US SPOKESMAN ASKED FOR ELABORATION OF PROJECTED USE OF INCONVERTIBLE CURRENCIES AND THEIR OVER-ALL IMPACT ON PROGRAM. ONLY OTHER SPEAKERS WERE JAPAN (WHO CONCERNED OVER FRAGMENTATION OF UNEP RESOURCES) AND UK WHO WANTED MORE INFO ON SHORTFALL IN EXPENDITURES FOR 1975 AND THOUGHT IT TIME SERIOUS ATTENTION WAS GIVEN TO POST-1977 PERIOD. IN RESPONSE

PRIMARILY US STATEMENT, SECRETARIAT (STEDMAN) POINTED OUT THAT PROJECTED \$27.8 MILLION EXPENDITURE IN 1976 COMPOSED OF \$20 MILLION FOR FUND PROGRAM ACTIVITIES WHICH WILL BE COMPLETED IN WHOLE OR IN PART IN 1976; \$700,000 FOR FUND PROGRAM RESERVE ACTIVITIES, \$6 MILLION FOR PROGRAM AND PROGRAM SUPPORT COSTS AND \$1.1 FOR FINANCIAL RESERVE AND THAT THESE REPRESENTED AS FIRM ESTIMATES AS SECRETARIAT COULD POSSIBLY ACHIEVE. AS FOR STRETCHING OUT THE ORIGINAL 5-YEAR PERIOD, STEDMAN SAID THAT THE SECRETARIAT'S HAND WERE TIED, NOT ONLY BY DECISIONS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL BUT BY GOVERNMENTS' FAILURE TO NOTIFY THE SECRETARIAT IN TIMELY FASHION OF THEIR SCHEDULE OF PLEDGE PAYMENTS. HE WAS UNABLE TO ADD ANYTHING FURTHER AT THIS STAGE ON THE USE OF INCONVERTIBLE CURRENCIES. LATEST STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS INTO FUND SHOWS THAT ALL MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO 1975 PROGRAM, LEAVING ASIDE QUESTION OF FURTHER PAYMENT FROM US, HAVE NOW BEEN PAID IN FULL OR SUBSTANTIALLY SO, EXPECT USSR AND UK. THE REP OF UK STATED FINAL UK PAYMENT WOULD BE MADE IN FIRST

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QUARTER 1976 WHICH IS LAST QUARTER UK FY75.

5. NEW ACTIVITIES: IN BRIEF, FINAL PRESENTATION, SECRETARIAT DISCUSSED TWO NEW PROGRAMS WHICH THE ED WILL PRESENT TO GC IV. THE FIRST WILL DEAL WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF FOOD PRODUCTION WHICH ED FEELS IN VIEW CRITICAL ATTENTION NOW BEING GIVEN, MERITS SEPARATE PRIORITY DESIGNATION IN UNEP PROGRAM. THE SECOND CONCERNS THE STATUS OF THE OZONE LAYER AND WILL BE PROPOSED UNDER THE OUTER LIMITS SECTOR AND WILL BUILD ON RECENTLY ISSUED WMO STATEMENT ON MAN'S IMPACT ON THE OZONE LAYER AND THE POTENTIAL GEOPHYSICAL CONSEQUENCES. ONLY RESPONSES CAME FROM SWEDEN, JAPAN, AND US, ALL OF WHOM ENDORSED OUTER LIMITS PROJECT AS WELL WITHIN UNEP'S MANDATE, BUT URGED CAUTION ON DEVELOPMENT NEW FOOD PROGRAM. US SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT FOOD IN ALL ITS RAMIFICATIONS IS SUBJECT OF INTENSE CONSIDERATION WITHIN GOVERNMENTS AND OTHER UN BODIES. ANY NEW PROPOSALS FOR UNEP ACTION WOULD, THEREFORE, BE SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST. IT ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT THAT ED'S PROPOSALS BE CIRCULATED TO GOVERNMENTS AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME. ALSO NOTED WITH INTEREST SECRETARIAT'S STATEMENT THAT, IF GC APPROVED, ED WOULD SEEK COOPERATION OTHER ELEMENTS OF UN SYSTEM. US SPOKESMAN EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ED'S RECOMMENDATIONS THEMSELVES WOULD BE DEVELOPED IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES, ESPECIALLY FAO, AND WOULD EXPECT HEAR AT GC/IV RESULTS SUCH CONSULTATION, PERHAPS DIRECTLY FROM FAO REPRESENTATIVE.

6. CONDUCT OF INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS SESSIONS OPENED BY INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TOLBA WHO MADE EXCELLENT IMPRESSION AND GAVE EVERY EVIDENCE HE IN COMMAND. GAVE OVERALL IMPRESSION THAT HIS EMPHASIS WILL BE ON CONSOLIDATION AND NOT EXPANSIVE UNEP FUNCTION. ON HABITAT HE CLEARLY SEEKING ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE BETWEEN WHAT HE SEES, CORRECTLY, AS MAJOR POTENTIALLY DIVISIVE ISSUE BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HE APPEARED EAGER TO PREVENT ANY APPEARANCE OF TAKING SIDES. AFTER INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, TOLBA TURNED CHAIR OVER TO ACTING ED STEDMAN, WHO CONDUCTED REMAINDER OF SESSIONS IN RELAXED AND COMPETENT UNCLASSIFIED

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MANNER. OVERALL, STEDMAN HAS CREATED VERY FAVORABLE IMPRESSION. ONLY HANDFUL OF LDCS ATTENDED THESE CONSULTATIONS, WHICH THEREFORE CANNOT BE SAID TO PROVIDE BASIS FOR CONFIDENT PREDICTION COURSE OF EVENTS AT GC/IV. MARSHALL

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 FEB 1976
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Document Source: CORE
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Subject: UNEP: PRE GC/IV CONSULTATIONS, JANUARY 28-30 SUMMARY: INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS CONLUDED AFTER TWO
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